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Don't let them bug you!

Teacher background

This is meant to assist you with the activity as you may want to modify the activity to include all minbeasts.

Bugs – the word bug is used to describe a group of insects that have mouths that suck juices out of plants or other animals.

Insects – animals with six legs. Usually the last adult stage has wings.

Invertebrates – any complex animal that does not have a backbone. It includes insects, spiders, worms, sea stars, jelly fish, etc. For this age group the term minibeast is a good alternative.



Decide if the activity will focus on insects or minibeasts. Teachers may prefer to allow students to first observe the animals outdoors. Later, the animals are collected in bug catchers or petrie dishes for observation in the classroom.

Safety – Provide students with a ruler or something similar to poke around with when looking for insects so that they don't pick up dangerous insects.

Activity outline

Begin this activity by asking your class some of the following questions about insects:

- What are insects?
- What types of insects can you think of?



- What types of noises do insects make?
- How do insects move around (hopping, slithering, flying, etc.)?

Give students a copy of 'Student Worksheet 1' and ask them what kind of insect they might find in the garden at school. Ask them to fill in the activity sheet.

Once complete, give each student a copy of 'Student Worksheet 2' and group children into pairs. Head out into the garden and ask each group to look for an insect. Students should be careful not to touch any of the insects and to stay away from any that look particularly unfriendly.

When groups have found an insect ask them to fill in 'Student Worksheet 2', following the instructions on the worksheet.

When the class have filled in their worksheets and compared their findings, gather the class together and talk about the insects that the groups found and the features that they discovered about their insect.

Prompt class discussion with the following questions:

- What sorts of insects did you find?
- Do you know their names?
- How did they look (how many legs did they have/did they have wings/did they have eyes/ what colours were they)?
- Did the insects make any noises?
- What were your insects doing (eating, flying, trying to hide, or just running around)?